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In the Claims

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims:

Per this amendment, please cancel claims 1-5, 14, 15, 53, 55, 56, 62, 77, and 78 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please also amend pending claims 23, 28, 38, 49, and 79, and add new dependent claims 80-84 as noted below.

1 - 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A matrix assembly for culturing cells, comprising:
a ~~generally U-shaped~~ holder having a pair of substantially parallel arms connected together at one end by a base arm and having an open end at the other,
a mounting device joined to the base arm for mounting the holder to a support,
a groove in each of the arms generally facing one another, and
at least one three-dimensional porous matrix member having its periphery removably disposed in the groove of each arm.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A matrix assembly, comprising:
a ~~generally U-shaped~~ holder having a pair of spaced apart coplanar arms connected together at one end by a base arm and having an open end at the other,
at least one three-dimensional porous matrix member carried by the arms and detachably connected thereto, said three-dimensional porous matrix member being disposed between and in the plane of the arms,
a mounting device attached to the base arm for mounting the holder to a support, and
a closure-cap detachably mounted to the open end of the arms for preventing the three-dimensional porous matrix member being withdrawn from between the arms, said closure-cap having a handle for stripping the closure-cap from the holder and for carrying the assembly without touching the three-dimensional porous matrix member.

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29-37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A support and matrix assembly for culturing cells, comprising:

- a shaft for disposition in vessel containing liquid cell culture media,
- a support-wheel mounted on the shaft and having a plurality of arms extending outwardly away from the shaft, each of said arms having at least one station for carrying a matrix assembly,
- a plurality of matrix assemblies mounted on each of the stations, each assembly including a U-shaped holder having a pair of generally parallel and spaced apart arms connected together at one end by a base arm and having an open end at the other,
- a mounting device attached to the base arm for mounting the holder to the station on the arm of the support-wheel,
- a groove on each of the arms of the holder facing one another for supporting three-dimensional porous matrix members between and generally in the plane of the arms, and
- a closure-cap for each of the holders for retaining the three-dimensional porous matrix member, between the arms.

39-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A matrix cartridge for culturing cells, comprising:

- a generally U-shaped holder having a pair of spaced apart coplanar arms connected together at one end by a base arm and having an open end at the other,
- at least one three-dimensional porous matrix member carried by the arms and detachably connected thereto, said three-dimensional porous matrix member being disposed between and in the plane of the arms,
- a mounting device attached to the base arm for mounting the holder to a support,
- a closure-cap detachably mounted to the open end of the arms for preventing the three-dimensional porous matrix member being withdrawn from between the arms, said closure-cap having a handle for stripping the closure-cap from the holder and for carrying the assembly without touching the three-dimensional porous matrix member, and

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a container having a well for an assembled holder, closure-cap and three-dimensional porous matrix member, said container having a cover for sealing the well with the holder, closure-cap and three-dimensional porous matrix member.

50-78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) A matrix assembly for culturing cells, comprising: a support comprising a shaft, and an outwardly extending member extending from and connected to the shaft;

at least one rigid three-dimensional porous solid matrix member carried by the support for movement therewith, wherein the porous solid matrix member is a unitary structure; and wherein the support further comprises a holder attached to the outwardly extending member. A matrix assembly as claimed in claim 78, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped, having a pair of substantially parallel arms connected together at one end by a base arm and having an open end at the other.

80. (New) A matrix assembly as claimed in claim 23, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped.

81. (New) A matrix assembly as claimed in claim 28, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped.

82. (New) A support and matrix assembly as claimed in claim 38, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped.

83. (New) A matrix cartridge as claimed in claim 49, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped.

84. (New) A matrix assembly as claimed in claim 79, wherein the holder is generally U-shaped.